

twelve unions involved in these negotiations think that is a pretty good deal, and they voted to approve the agreement.

Still, we find ourselves in this scenario because railroad companies won't budge on granting railroad workers any paid sick days. That is wrong and something we should work to address but not at the risk of a devastating rail shutdown.

My colleagues and I do not take lightly the notion that Congress is intervening in a labor dispute. We don't normally do that. In this case, there is a lot at stake. Today, our House colleagues passed legislation, I am told, to avert a rail strike. I think the vote was overwhelming—290 to 137. I am hopeful we will do the same in the Senate well before the December 9 deadline.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN MACK AND CAROLINE JONES

Madam President, last but not least, I want to take a moment to recognize two terrific members of our staff on the Environment and Public Works Committee, which I am privileged to lead along with Senator SHELLEY CAPITO.

Two of our finest are going to be leaving us this week. Carolyn Mack, our committee operations manager, departs our office today, which coincidentally is her birthday day. She is retiring after 29 years of Senate service.

Carolyn came to the Environment and Public Works Committee 21 years ago when, I think, Jim Jeffords was our chairman. She has faithfully served not one, not two, but three EPW chairs, including Senator Jeffords, Senator Boxer, and now yours truly.

Many of our colleagues have heard me say that Senators cannot do all that we do without our staff. I hire people smarter than I with better hearts and minds. Carolyn is right up there at the top. Quite simply, she is the heart and the soul of our EPW operations. Everyone in the Senate buildings, from the furniture department to the parking staff, including the graphics department, knows, loves, and respects Carolyn.

At her recent retirement party, Carolyn reflected on what she liked about her job. Here is what she said: "I like to help people." That is what she said: "I like to help people." What a humble and lovely way to view one's job in the U.S. Senate—namely, that it is something that comes and flows from wanting to serve.

We are grateful for Carolyn's help all these years and wish her the very best in retirement.

Lastly, also departing Saturday is Caroline Jones. Caroline started with us at EPW 4 years ago as an intern. The Presiding Officer knows how important interns are to us. It is like a farm system, if you will, of a great staff.

She has blossomed into an integral member of our staff, working with our climate and clean air team. This year, she was the lead for us working to rat-

ify the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol, something that she did an incredible job with as we phased down HFCs, hydrofluorocarbons, which are a thousand times worse than CO<sub>2</sub> in terms of climate change. And it not only did that, but provides jobs—not just climate change but provides jobs—thousands, tens of thousands of jobs—and billions of dollars of economic opportunity. She gave us a big assist on the plate with that.

But we will miss Caroline's attention to detail, and we are going to miss her hard work. But we know she is not going too far. She is joining the staff of the Federal Highway Administration's climate office. We know she will bring her talents to that office, and they will be the better for it, as will our country.

You can leave the payroll, but you can never leave "Carpertown." As they say in the Eagles in "Hotel California," "You can check out, but you can never leave."

That certainly is true in this case.

As we say to our departing staff members, we say in the Navy, wishing you fair winds and following seas.

God bless you both.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF CAMILLE L. VELEZ-RIVE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate continues the important work of confirming highly qualified, diverse nominees to the Federal judiciary, as we take up the nomination of Judge Camille Velez-Rive, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Judge Velez-Rive has served as a magistrate judge for the District of Puerto Rico for the past 18 years. In that time, she has presided over 20 jury trials and six bench trials, including both civil and criminal proceedings.

Before joining the bench, Judge Velez-Rive was an associate at a San Juan-based firm, where she practiced for 3 years. She then served as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico for 6 years. During that time, she worked for 2 years within the criminal appellate division, briefing more than 80 criminal appeals and arguing 10 appeals before the First Circuit. Judge Velez-Rive then spent 4 more years in the civil division, handling approximately 65 cases.

Judge Velez-Rive earned her B.A. with college honors from Washington University in St. Louis and her J.D. magna cum laude from the University of Puerto Rico Law School. After graduating, she went on to clerk for the Honorable Francisco Rebollo-Lopez on the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Judge Velez-Rive as "well qualified" to serve on the District of Puerto Rico.

As a long-serving Federal judge with extensive trial experience, Judge Velez-Rive is highly qualified to continue her service to the District of

Puerto Rico as a Federal district court judge.

I look forward to supporting this well-qualified nominee and urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

NOMINATION OF ANNE M. NARDACCI

Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Anne Nardacci to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Ms. Nardacci is a seasoned practitioner with a broad range of litigation experience and deep ties to the Northern District.

She was born in Albany, NY, and attended Georgetown University and Cornell Law School before beginning her legal career at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom in Manhattan. There, Ms. Nardacci specialized in merger review and antitrust litigation.

Since 2005, she has worked at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP in Albany, where her practice has focused on complex commercial litigation, including antitrust, fair competition, bankruptcy, and fraud matters. Throughout the course of her career, Ms. Nardacci has represented large companies, small businesses, and classes of individuals. Impressively, 90 percent of her practice has been in Federal court.

Despite her demanding career in private practice, Ms. Nardacci has managed to dedicate a significant portion of her time to pro bono work. She has defended the civil rights of inmates and represented survivors of domestic abuse.

Ms. Nardacci's distinguished career is a testament to her commitment to equal justice under law. She received a "qualified" rating from the American Bar Association and has the strong support of New York's Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this outstanding nominee to the Federal bench.

VOTE ON VELEZ-RIVE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Velez-Rive nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows: